

FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL
Thursday 4th November 2021 at 7pm
(Virtual Meeting via VScene)

Present:

Steven Johnston (Chair)
Karen Rorie (P3/4WL & P6/7R Rep)
David Johnston (P2/3/4 Rep)
Ola Slater (P4/5T Rep)
Alice Peace (P4/5T Rep)
Barbara Brown (ELC & P1/2S Rep)
Emma McConnachie (P6/7F Rep)
Donna Reid (Parent + Minute Taker)
Sally Marcus (P3/4/5 SW Rep)
Kerri Bickmore (P1/2W Rep)
Jess Smith (P1/2/4/5 & P3 Rep)
Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)
Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)
Sharon Muir (Depute Head Teacher)

Apologies

Helen Killeen (Business Manager), Katy Firth (P1/2 HL Rep), Barbara Brown (P3 Rep)

1. Opening of the Meeting

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting including the new members Kerri and Sally.

2. Apologies of Absence

As above.

3. Approval of A.G.M Minutes held on 3rd September.

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the Annual General Meeting held on the 2nd September 2021.

4. Action Log Update

1. Fundraising Ideas– No relaxation of restrictions in the updated COVID guidance for schools. Mitigations in school are still as they were with no parents allowed in school or large group gatherings. As a result fundraising events continue to be on hold.
2. Online Banking – No change. The committee are still waiting to be able to get to online banking. At the moment people can pay into the bank account online but FOGS are unable to pay anything out of the account by any means other than cheque. Steven has been able to find someone who is willing to audit the accounts to make sure that the books are correct – a process which should be done annually but hasn't been done in some time.

5. Parent Representation for 1/2S

No-one has come forward yet to volunteer to be the parent rep for Miss Stockan's P1/2 class. Steven suggested he could make one final attempt on the F.O.G Facebook page. Ingrid said she would put a message on the school's Facebook page.

6. Head Teachers Update

Helen Kileen passed on a message to let the parent council know that Callum from Orkney Builders had cleared out and replaced the sand in the cage in the back playground free of charge.

Chris Jex – outdoor education confirmed the P7 trip to Nethybridge can't go ahead due to COVID and difficulties with insurance making trips out of Orkney impossible. P6 will be offered an experience with Orkney Outdoor Education in and around Glaitness on the 16th, 17th, 18th June 2022. The Current P5's will be offered their outdoor experience earlier in the school year when P6 traditionally went to Hoy - Sept 2022.

Virtual Parents evenings will be held on Tuesday 16th November (5-7pm) and Thursday 18th (4-6pm). Office staff have been busy setting up the booking system and parents will receive an email shortly with their appointments. The virtual system is quite straightforward though it does count down and cuts the meeting off when the allocated slot time is done. The school will be sending more information to parents about this shortly. Since time slots are short and can't run on they will be asking parents to let class teachers know in advance if they have any specific questions or topics that they would like to discuss. Steven asked if parents evening included ELCC and Ingrid confirmed the evenings coming up in November are for P1 children upwards. David asked whether there would be more than one appointment available. Ingrid confirmed that more than one person can log in to the meetings. Karen asked whether parents would be allocated a time or if they could choose. Ingrid was unsure about this and was going to check with office staff. Parents thought being able to choose a slot if possible would be helpful.

Book Week Scotland and Anti-bullying week coming up in the same week in November and school will be doing some work on both these events. P6/7 children in the charities group will be responsible for planning Children in Need on 19th November. Glaitness Ambassadors will prepare information to be shared with parents in advance. It is likely that there will be the option of dressing up either in spots or possibly as a book character to tie in with Book Week Scotland. The Eco-Group also has some activities planned in relation to COP26 e.g. using eco pens in school. Ingrid is keen to encourage the bairns to share their own ideas and has been speaking to the bairns about making a collective difference.

In the run up to Christmas it is likely that school will continue with Festive Fridays so that children have the option to wear Christmas jumpers on a Friday and on the day of Christmas Lunch. School are keen to promote the dress code and feel that festive jumpers can become a bit much if they are allowed all the time. The P7's have their hoodies and are looking smart wearing these around the school.

A staff member suggested doing a reverse advent calendar idea for the foodbank. They were thinking bairns could be asked to take in items to be donated to the foodbank and put these under the Christmas tree in the hall. Ingrid thought the charities group could take responsibility for this and make contact with the foodbank to arrange. Folk thought this sounded like good idea. David suggested that different classes could be asked to take in different things on different days. Steven suggested checking the list of most needed items that the foodbank advertise so that the hamper includes items that they are most short of.

COVID cases are increasing in Orkney at the moment and Ingrid wanted to remind folk that we all have a part to play in remaining vigilant in schools and in the wider community. COVID and other seasonal colds are having an impact on daily staffing. All mitigations are continuing and risk assessments are being reviewed. Ingrid is hopeful that school will shortly be able to send out some information and guidance to parents reminding them what they need to do to help keep us all safe.

There are some COVID recovery teacher posts to be filled until March with interviews being held a week on Friday. These are extra teachers that will provide particular interventions and support. At the moment some of these posts are being filled by supply which makes it a bit difficult to achieve consistency. Linda Nicolson's auxiliary post has been advertised and will close soon. There are also Support for Learning posts advertised and still to be filled. P1/2 have requested 6 pairs of waterproof trousers for outdoor learning. Donna thought there might be some in her classroom cupboard and will check. If not, the parent council agreed this is something they would be happy to fund.

P1,4 and 7 are starting into SNSA assessments in reading, writing and numeracy. These are to be done in all schools in Orkney before Christmas. The national assessments are done online and are used as a diagnostic assessment of individual progress. The test adapts based on the children's answers. Reports can be created for individual or groups /classes and show which questions were missed. For older children the tests can be administered to groups of children but P1's are done individually.

7. Treasurers Update

Steven advised that the bank balance is currently £3390.91. There is also some credit sitting with the Picky Centre for extra-curricular sports that wasn't used which will help further down the line. The school lottery continues to generate a regular source of income that equates to around £1000 per year. The Christmas cards samples and order forms are with parents at the moment to be returned next week. Most children have taken samples home but the office will scan and email any that are still sitting in school to make sure folk don't miss out. The company have been very good and accommodating in previous years. The parent council receive a commission on cards and gifts sold which generates some more income which is especially important while fundraising is on hold. Parents agreed to continue to support the purchase of Christmas books given to all bairns in ELCC and P1&2. Steven will message folk to ask for volunteers to wrap the books as it's unlikely we'll be able to get together to do this again this year.

8. Early Learning and Childcare Update

The remodelling part of the nursery build is looking good, and is due to be handed over by the end of November. Shaun thinks this will be tight but is being told it is still possible. The space is big and bright and he and Ingrid have recently been for a look. This part of the nursery will be getting set up through the month of December and by January they will be using the new space with children going between the two spaces. Children will still be able to mix in both spaces. The next big change will be the kit starting to go up and Shaun has been told that the outside area is progressing well.

COVID guidance didn't change much for ELCC and they are still in similar position as before following all the mitigations. The current situation in Orkney has been challenging with staffing difficulties in maintaining adult:child ratios. They are looking at making contingency

plans and will keep parents informed. Shaun explained that the difficulties with staffing were not necessarily funding related but more to do with a lack of available staff. Most folk who want to work in early learning and childcare are already doing so, this and temporary contracts that folk are less keen to apply for, means that filling vacancies is now more difficult than ever before. Ingrid agreed that finding skilled people available to fill staffing gaps is also an ongoing challenge for schools.

At the end of November each key group is hoping to have an open event where parents will be able to come in to nursery. Staff have been using phone calls and other methods to engage with parents for such a long time now.

Shaun is due to finish his secondment at Willow Tree and will be back at Glaitness fulltime in January to help support the team through the move to the extension and new build.

Forest School leaders continue to plan outdoor learning using the polycrub and Muddisdale. A trained staff member will be given a keyworker role specifically to drive this forward.

9. Extra-curricular Sports update

Emma McConnachie and Helen Corsie have 14 bairns at Netball on a Monday after school. Emma has entered two teams (Swans and Signets) into the fun fives Primary league that runs November through to March. This involves one Saturday every month with a knock out competition in April. Emma said they don't need a parent rota for Mondays but they might need to ask for help with the Saturdays. Gina McMahon is available to be the 2nd umpire on a Saturday. There are no parents allowed in the arena and there may be restrictions on viewing from the gallery. Emma thought folk will more likely come and go rather than waiting around for the 4 hours. Football is delayed due to apprehensions about crowds and the ongoing COVID situation in Orkney. Badminton seems to be going well on a Wednesday night with around 20 children attending from P4-P7.

10. Correspondence

- (i) Breakfast club/after schools club. Ingrid confirmed it is not feasible to staff this from within school. A similar thing has been run by active schools years ago. Kerri said to her knowledge there had been plenty discussions around this and child poverty but not really any solutions. Shaun thought the same government department as ELCC were involved and would be consulting more widely so there would possibly be more to come on this. OIC currently have a survey on ELC and out of school care which has gone live today. Shaun will email this to Steven to distribute.
- (ii) OI parents unite – Steven and head teachers received an email about perceived pressure on children to take up vaccines and concerns about safety. This was not something we would want to follow up on as it was not in line with expert advice and the national public health message. Additionally, it was less relevant for a Primary School. Head teachers had discussed this too and also were advised by heads of service that it needed no further action.
- (iii) Scottish Seafarms Event – charitable donations given out £1.4 million in grants in the region through part funding of projects. Ingrid has already submitted an application in relation to improving the courtyard area but has not yet received a reply. Steven said he would forward the email with the contact details and Ingrid is intending to phone to follow up on the application.

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7pm.

12. Meeting closed 8:20pm.

Action Log 2020-2021			
No:	Owner	Action	Date Complete
1.	SJ	<p>Fundraising - Family Photographs in 2020 – Steven to contact Fiona Scott. 16/01/20 – Steven contacted Fiona Scott and she has said that this is feasible. Discussions about when and where photos will take place. Facebook poll to be conducted 19/01/20. On hold due to COVID-19. Possibility of doing this before Christmas still, to be discussed at next meeting. 25/08/20. On Hold Due to Covid19. 30/09/20. Still on Hold – 18/11/20</p> <p>Other FOGS fundraising ideas – book sale, bingo, quiz, Cube/game show. On Hold due to Covid19. Possibility to do some fundraising virtually, such as the quiz. To be discussed further at the next meeting. 25/08/20. To be discussed out with the meeting through Messenger. 30/09/20. David suggested hosting a virtual pub quiz. 18/11/20</p> <p>03/06/21 – remains on hold due to COVID, fundraising may be easier to arrange when social gatherings are allowed hopefully in the new school year. Also need to have a focus for spending rather than asking for money for it to sit in FoG bank account, particularly during a time where people may have less financial security due to the pandemic.</p> <p>02/09/2021 – New guidelines coming out in a couple of weeks' time could allow for family photos to take place in the near future. It was mentioned about holding a disco again this year for fundraising, but again, new guidelines will let us know if this possible.</p> <p>04/11/2021 – No change.</p>	
	SJ	<p>Treasurer's Update – Still waiting for online banking 18/11/20</p> <p>Still waiting for online banking, may have to change a few things to make it work. 20.01.21</p> <p>03/06/21 – Online banking function not possible with RBS. Other banks not currently taking on new club/society accounts at present due to Covid. Audit of the accounts still pending.</p> <p>02/09/2021 – Still not able to get online banking, people can pay into the account, but we cannot pay out using BACS etc yet. Audit of the accounts still pending, but an auditor has been found.</p> <p>04/11/2021 – No change</p>	
Recently Completed Actions			